

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/725,687

Examiner

Truc T. T. Nguyen

Applicant(s)

BEHAN, EDGAR G.

Art Unit

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to an interview on 11/8/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 3-10, 13-16, 19 and 20.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 10/20/03 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.


Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 11/8/04.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


TRUC T. NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Greg Bradovich on 11/8/04.

The application has been amended as follows:

- Please cancel claims 2, 11-12, and 17-18.
- Please amend claims 1, 3, 6, 13-14, 16 and 19-20 as follow:

1. A connector block apparatus [adapted] to receive a medical electrode having at least one connector contact ring[s], comprising:

a canted spring or any other electrically conductive displaceable configuration secured to a tab to form electrical contact with the connector contact ring; and

a first housing connected to a second housing forming an internal indentation when the first and second housings are connected, the tab and the canted spring or any other electrically conductive displaceable configuration being held within the indentation[.];

wherein the tab includes a ring portion and a pad portion, the ring portion being held within the indentation and the pad portion being external to the first and second housings.

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3. The apparatus as claimed in Claim [2] 1 wherein the canted spring or any other electrically conductive displacable configuration is held within the interior diameter of the ring portion.

6. An implantable medical system, comprising:
an implantable medical device having a housing and a header, or connector top assembly having a hollow interior and connected to the housing;
a connector assembly located within the hollow interior of the header, or connector top assembly, [the] a connector block forming a portion of an elongated cavity; and
an electrode with a plurality of connector contact rings engaged within the elongated cavity[.];

wherein the connector assembly comprises a plurality of connector blocks, each of the connector blocks further comprising:

a canted spring or any other electrically conductive displacable configuration secured to a tab; and

a first housing connected in opposition to a second housing, the canted spring or any other electrically conductive displacable configuration and the tab being held within an internal circular indentation formed between the first and second housings.

13. The system as claimed in Claim [12] 6 wherein the first housing includes a first engaging face with the first engaging face having a first protrusion and a first cavity and the second housing includes a second engaging face with the second engaging face having a second

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protrusion and a second cavity, wherein the first protrusion of the first engaging face is received within the second cavity of the second engaging face and the second protrusion of the second engaging face is received within the first cavity of the first engaging face to secure the first housing to the second housing and to secure the tab between the first engaging face and the second engaging face within the indentation.

14. The system as claimed in Claim [11] 6 further comprising a sealing face located on either side of each connector block adjacent a corresponding port opening through which the electrode fits.

16. An implantable medical kit, comprising:

an implantable medical device having a housing, a header, or connector top assembly connected to a portion of the housing and internal electronics;

a connector assembly adapted to be held within the header, or connector top assembly;

and

an electrode adapted to engage with the connector assembly and further adapted to interface with a patient[.];

wherein the connector assembly comprises one or more connector blocks; and

wherein each of the connector blocks includes a first and second housing engaged with each other forming an internal indentation including a ring portion of a tab, the ring portion securing a canted spring or any other electrically conductive displaceable configuration within the indentation.

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19. The kit as claimed in Claim [18] 16 further comprising a planar pad recession on each connector block including a planar pad portion connected to the ring portion, the planar pad portion being adapted to connect to a feed through wire connected to the implantable medical device.

20. The kit as claimed in Claim [17] 16 further comprising one or more seals adapted to be placed within sealing faces on the connector blocks.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claims 1, 3-5, the prior art of record fails to teach the tab includes a ring portion and a pad portion, the ring portion being held within the indentation and the pad portion being external to the first and second housings.

Regarding claims 6-10, and 13-15, the prior art of record fails to teach a plurality of connector blocks, each comprise a canted spring or any other electrically conductive displaceable configuration secured to a tab being held within an internal circular indentation formed between the first and second housings.

Regarding claims 16 and 19-20, the prior art of record fails to teach a plurality of connector blocks, each of the connector blocks includes a first and second housing engaged with each other forming an internal indentation including a ring portion of a tab, the ring portion securing a canted spring or any other electrically conductive displaceable configuration within the indentation.

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Truc T. T. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-2011. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800 extension 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Truc T. T. Nguyen
Primary Examiner
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Truc T. T. Nguyen', written over a horizontal line.